



# Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 329**

February Session, 2012

Substitute Senate Bill No. 224

*Senate, April 10, 2012*

The Committee on Commerce reported through SEN. LEBEAU of the 3rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT INCREASING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES THROUGH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2012*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section, "small business" means a business located in Connecticut with  
3 fifty employees or less, and "medium business" means a business  
4 located in Connecticut with fifty-one to one hundred employees.

5 (b) The University of Connecticut at Storrs, or any campus thereof,  
6 in concert with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technologies,  
7 shall establish a program to assist small and medium businesses that  
8 develop innovations in advanced manufacturing technologies. The  
9 university and the center shall collaborate with small and medium  
10 businesses participating in such program. Such program may include,  
11 but not be limited to, use of the university's or said center's facilities or  
12 equipment or access to university staff or students or staff of said  
13 center. The university and the center shall establish eligibility criteria  
14 for said program that shall include, but need not be limited to,

15 minimum levels of contributions required from participating  
16 businesses.

17 (c) The sum of one million dollars is appropriated to The University  
18 of Connecticut, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June  
19 30, 2013, for the program established in this section, which shall  
20 include funding to the center, and to develop and support  
21 collaborations resulting from said program.

|   |              |             |
|---|--------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: |              |             |
| Section 1   | July 1, 2012 | New section |

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1(b) "and" was changed to "in concert with" for statutory consistency.

**CE**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect             | FY 13 \$  | FY 14 \$  |
|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| UConn           | GF - Appropriates Funds | 1,000,000 | 1,000,000 |

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill appropriates \$1.0 million to the University of Connecticut to assist small and medium size businesses in purchasing the equipment and expertise to develop innovations in advanced manufacturing technologies. sHB 5014, the revised FY 13 budget bill, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, is under the spending cap by approximately \$700,000 in FY 13. If both sHB 5014 and this bill are passed, this would result in the state exceeding the spending cap in FY 13.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the funds provided.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sSB 224*****AN ACT INCREASING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF SMALL AND MEDIUM BUSINESSES THROUGH RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires UConn or any of its campuses to establish a program assisting small and medium businesses to develop innovative advanced manufacturing technologies and appropriates \$1 million in FY 13 for this purpose. UConn must do this in concert with the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT), a nonprofit organization helping manufacturers, high technology firms, small businesses, and entrepreneurs operate more efficiently and improve their workforce.

The bill requires UConn and CCAT to collaborate with the businesses participating in the program, including allowing businesses to use both organizations' facilities and equipment, access their respective staff, and, in UConn's case, access its students. UConn must use the appropriation to fund the center and develop and support its collaborations.

UConn and CCAT must establish eligibility criteria for participating in the program that must include minimum required contributions from participating businesses. The program is open to Connecticut-based businesses with 100 or fewer employees. The bill divides these businesses into two groups: "small businesses," with 50 or fewer employees, and "medium size businesses," with 51 to 100 employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012

**BACKGROUND**

**CCAT Services**

CCAT provides a range of services to military and civilian manufacturers, high technology businesses, small businesses, entrepreneurs, educators, and policy makers. The services include benchmarking, which helps businesses assess their productivity and identify areas for improvement; quality training, which helps them improve quality, productivity, and efficiency; and supply chain services, which seek to improve all steps in planning, producing, and delivering products to customers.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/22/2012)